

**ENHANCING SALT TOLERANCE OF CUCUMBER  
PLANT USING GRAFTING TECHNIQUE AND  
SOME BIOREGULATORS**

By

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## ABSTRACT

**Mohammad Ahmad Mostafa Ahmad: Enhancing Salt Tolerance of Cucumber Plant Using Grafting Technique and Some Bioregulators. Unpublished Ph.D. Thesis, Department of Agricultural Botany, Faculty of Agriculture, Ain Shams University, 2011.**

Two experiments were undertaken in the present study. The first experiment was conducted in pots of sandy soil in a greenhouse during the season of 2008 to evaluate the salt tolerance of different cucurbitaceous cultivars; Shintosa supreme pumpkin (*Cucurbita maxima* x *C. moschata*), Bottle gourd (*Lagenaria siceraria*), Gourd black seed (*Cucurbita maxima*) and pumpkin (*Cucurbita moschata*). Salinity was applied as NaCl at 0, 2500, 3500, 4500 ppm to a base complete Hoagland nutrient solution. Obtained results showed that, Shintosa supreme pumpkin recorded the highest values of plant height, leaf area, shoots and root fresh and dry weights, and root length. Meanwhile, Shintosa supreme pumpkin showed reduction in membrane permeability, salt injury index and Na/K ratio comparing with other cucurbitaceous plants under different NaCl treatments. According to these results Shintosa Supreme pumpkin was selected to use as rootstock in the second experiment. Second experiment was conducted in a greenhouse during the two successive seasons of 2008- 2009 and 2009-2010 to investigate the effect of grafting technique, bioregulators; salicylic acid (SA) at 0.5 & 1 mM, fulvic acid (FA) at 150 & 300 ppm and sea weed extract (SWE) at 2.5 & 5% in addition to compatible solute, glycine betaine (GB) at 2.5 & 5 mM in improving salt tolerant of grafted cucumber plants (*Cucumis sativus* L. cv. falcon, Hybrid F1) under saline conditions. Grafting of cucumber on salt tolerance rootstock (Shintosa supreme pumpkin) significantly increased growth and fruits yield, leaf relative water content (LRWC) and antioxidant enzymes activity. Furthermore, grafting significantly increased

chlorophyll, carotenoid, proline and total soluble protein concentrations. Grafting reduced membrane permeability and malondialdehyde (MDA) concentration in leaves of cucumber plants under salt stress conditions. Foliar application of SWE, SA, FA and GB significantly improved growth and yield parameters, and biochemical contents of grafted cucumber plants compared to untreated grafted plants under salt conditions. The superiority was due to SWE (5%) followed by FA (300 ppm) then GB (5 mM).

**Key wards:**

Shintosa supreme pumpkin (*Cucurbita maxima* x *C. moschata*), cucumber (*Cucumis sativus*), grafting, bioregulators, salicylic acid, fulvic acid, seaweed extract, compatible solute, glycine betaine, salt stress.

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## CONTENTS

	<b>Page</b>
<b>LIST OF TABLES</b> .....	VI
<b>LIST OF FIGURES</b> .....	IX
<b>LIST OF ABBRIVIATIONS</b> .....	X
<b>INTRODUCTION</b> .....	1
<b>REVIEW OF LITERATURE</b> .....	4
1. Effect of salt stress on cucurbitaceous plants .....	4
1.1. Growth and yield parameters .....	4
1.2. Water status .....	5
1.2.1 Leaf relative water content (LRWC).....	5
1.2.2. Membrane permeability .....	6
1.2.3. Lipid peroxidation (Malondialdehyde concentration).....	6
1.3. Effect of salt stress on biochemical constituents .....	7
1.3.1. Plant pigments .....	7
1.3.2. Proline .....	9
1.3.3. Antioxidant enzymes activity .....	9
1.4. Effect of salt stress on minerals concentration .....	10
2. Grafting .....	11
2.1. Grafting methods .....	11
2.2. Effect of grafting on growth of cucumber plants .....	11
2.3. Fruit yield and quality .....	12
2.4. Effect of grafting on some biochemical constituents of cucumber plants .....	15
2.4.1. Plant pigments .....	15
2.4.2. Total soluble proteins .....	15
2.4.3. Lipid peroxidation (Malondialdehyde content).....	16
2.4.4. Antioxidant enzymes activity .....	16
2.5. Effect of salt stress on grafted cucumber plant .....	16
2.5.1. Growth parameters .....	16
2.5.2. Water status .....	18



2.5.2.1. Leaf relative water content .....	18
2.5.2.2. Membrane permeability .....	18
2.5.2.3. Lipid peroxidation (Malondialdehyde concentration).....	18
2.5.3. Fruit yield and quality .....	19
2.5.4. Biochemical constituents .....	21
2.5.4.1. Plant pigments .....	21
2.5.4.2. Proline .....	21
2.5.4.3. Total soluble proteins .....	22
2.5.4.4. Antioxidant enzymes activity .....	23
3. Effect of bioregulators and osmolytes on plants under salt stress.....	24
3.1. Humic substances or fulvic acid .....	24
3.2. Salicylic acid .....	24
3.2.1. Growth parameters .....	24
3.2.2. Water status .....	25
3.2.2.1. Leaf relative water content .....	25
3.2.2.2 Membrane permeability .....	26
3.2.2.3. Lipid peroxidation (Malondialdehyde concentration)....	27
3.2.3. Biochemical constituents .....	28
3.2.3.1. Plant pigments .....	28
3.2.3.2. Proline .....	28
3.2.3.3. Antioxidant enzymes activity .....	29
3.3. Seaweed extract .....	30
3.3.1. Growth parameter .....	30
3.3.2. Membrane permeability .....	31
3.3.3. Biochemical constituents .....	31
3.3.3.1. Plant pigments and total soluble proteins .....	31
3.3.3.2. Antioxidant enzymes activity and Malondialdehyde ....	31
3.3.4. Fruit yield .....	32
3.4. Glycine betaine .....	32
3.4.1. Growth parameters .....	32
3.4.2. Water relations .....	33

3.4.3. Biochemical constituents .....	33
3.4.3.1. Plant pigments .....	33
3.4.3.2. Proline .....	34
3.4.3.3. Total soluble proteins .....	34
3.4.3.4. Antioxidant enzymes activity and malondialdehyde ....	34
3.4.4. Fruit yield .....	35
<b>MATERIALS AND METHODS</b> .....	36
1. First experiment .....	36
1.1. Plant materials and cultivation .....	37
1.2. Salinity treatments .....	37
1.3. Growth measurements .....	37
1.4. Determination of the salt injury index .....	38
1.5. Determination of membrane permeability .....	38
1.6. Determination of the Na <sup>+</sup> , K <sup>+</sup> and Cl <sup>-</sup> concentrations .....	38
2. Second experiment .....	39
2.1. Plant materials and cultivation .....	39
2.2. Bioregulators and compatible solute treatments .....	39
2.3. Growth measurements .....	40
2.4. Fruits yield and quality measurements .....	40
2.5. Determination of leaf relative water content (LRWC) .....	40
2.6. Determination of membrane permeability .....	41
2.7. Biochemical analyses .....	41
2.7.1. Determination of chlorophylls and carotenoids .....	41
2.7.2. Determination of proline .....	41
2.7.3. Determination of malondialdehyde .....	42
2.7.4. Determination of antioxidant enzymes activity .....	43
2.7.4.1. Preparation of enzymes extract .....	43
2.7.4.2. Determination of phenylalanine ammonia-lyase activity...	44
2.7.4.3. Determination of peroxidase activity .....	44
2.7.4.4. Determination of catalase activity .....	44
2.7.4.5. Determination of superoxide dismutase activity .....	45
2.7.4.6. Determination of polyphenol oxidase activity .....	45

2.4.7. Determination of ascorbate peroxidase .....	45
2.5. Fruits analyses .....	46
2.5.1. Determination of total soluble solid .....	46
2.5.2. Determination of fruit juice electric conductivity (EC)...	46
2.5.3. Determination of titratable acidity .....	46
2.5.4. Determination of L-ascorbic acid .....	46
3. Statistical analysis .....	47
<b>RESULTUS</b> .....	48
1. First experiment .....	48
1.1. Growth parameters .....	48
1.2. Membrane permeability .....	48
1.3. Salt injury index .....	50
1.4. Mineral analysis .....	50
2. Second experiment .....	53
2.1. Plant growth and yield .....	53
2.1.1. Plant growth .....	53
2.1.2. Fruits yield .....	54
2.2. Leaf relative water content .....	58
2.3. Membrane permeability .....	58
2.4. Biochemical constituents .....	60
2.4.1. Biochemical constituents in leaves .....	60
2.4.1.1. Plant pigments .....	60
2.4.1.1.1. Chlorophyll concentration .....	60
2.4.1.1.2. Carotenoids .....	61
2.4.1.2. Total soluble protein .....	61
2.4.1.3. Proline .....	62
2.4.1.4. Malondialdehyde .....	63
2.4.1.5. Antioxidant enzymes activity .....	63
2.4.2. Biochemical constituents in fruits .....	69
<b>DISCUSSION</b> .....	73
1. Physiological aspects of NaCl- salt stress tolerance .....	73
2. Effect of grafting .....	75

3. Effect of bioregulators .....	76
<b>SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION</b> .....	80
<b>REFERENCES</b> .....	84
<b>ARABIC SUMMARY</b> .....	

## LIST OF TABLES

No.		Page
1	Effect of different NaCl concentrations on growth parameters of four cucurbitaceous cultivars during the season of 2008.	49
2	Effects of different NaCl concentrations (0, 2500, 3500 and 4500 ppm) on the membrane permeability (%) of four cucurbitaceous cultivars during the season of 2008.	50
3	Effects of NaCl concentrations (0, 2500, 3500 and 4500 ppm) on the salt injury index (%) of four cucurbitaceous cultivars during the season of 2008.	51
4	Effects of different concentrations of NaCl on $\text{Na}^+$ , $\text{K}^+$ and $\text{Cl}^-$ concentrations ( $\text{mg g}^{-1}$ D.Wt.) in the root, leaves and stem of Shintosa Supreme pumpkin ( <i>Cucurbita maxima</i> x <i>C. moschata</i> ).	51
5	Effect of sea weed extract (SWE), salicylic acid (SA), fulvic acid (FA) and glycine betaine (GB) on the shoot growth of grafted cucumber plants (GC) onto squash shintoza under salinity stress (3800 ppm) after 70 days from planting during the two seasons.	55
6	Effect of sea weed extract (SWE), salicylic acid (SA), fulvic acid (FA) and glycine betaine (GB) on the growth of grafted cucumber plants (GC) onto squash shintoza under salinity stress (3800 ppm) after 104 days from planting during the two seasons.	56
7	Effect of sea weed extract (SWE), salicylic acid (SA), fulvic acid (FA) and glycine betaine (GB) on fruits yield of grafted cucumber plant (GC) onto squash shintoza under salinity stress (3800 ppm) during the two seasons.	57
8	Effect of sea weed extract (SWE), salicylic acid (SA), Fulvic acid (FA) and Glycine betaine (GB) on leaf relative	59

water content (LRWC) and membrane permeability (MP) of grafted cucumber plants (GC) onto squash shintoza under salinity stress (3800 ppm) after 70 days from planting during the two seasons.

- 9     Effect of sea weed extract (SWE), salicylic acid (SA), fulvic acid (FA) and glycine betaine (GB) on leaf relative water content (LRWC) and membrane permeability (MP) of grafted cucumber plants (GC) onto squash shintoza under salinity stress (3800 ppm) after 154 days from planting during the two seasons. 60
  
- 10    Effect of sea weed extract (SWE), salicylic acid (SA), fulvic acid (FA) and glycine betaine (GB) on chlorophylls (Chl.), carotenoids (Carot.), proline (prol.), total soluble protein (TSP) and malondialdehyde (MDA) concentrations of grafted cucumber leaves (GC) onto squash shintoza under salinity stress (3800 ppm) after 70 days from planting during the two seasons. 64
  
- 11    Effect of sea weed extract (SWE), salicylic acid (SA), fulvic acid (FA) and glycine betaine (GB) on chlorophylls (Chl.), carotenoids (Carot.), proline (prol.), total soluble protein (TSP) and malondialdehyde (MDA) concentrations of grafted cucumber leaves (GC) on to squash shintoza under salinity stress (3800 ppm) after 154 days from planting during the two seasons. 65
  
- 12    Effect of sea weed extract (SWE), salicylic acid (SA), fulvic acid (FA) and glycine betaine (GB) on antioxidant enzyme activities (unit min.<sup>-1</sup> mg<sup>-1</sup> protein) of grafted cucumber leaves (GC) onto squash shintoza under salinity stress (3800 ppm) after 70 days from planting at second season (2009/2010). 67
  
- 13    Effect of sea weed extract (SWE), salicylic acid (SA), fulvic acid (FA) and glycine betaine (GB) on antioxidant 68

enzyme activities (unit min.<sup>-1</sup> mg<sup>-1</sup> protein) of grafted cucumber leaves (GC) onto squash shintoza under salinity stress (3800 ppm) after 154 days from planting at second season (2009/2010).

- |    |  |    |
|----|--|----|
| 14 | Effect of sea weed extract (SWE), salicylic acid (SA), fulvic acid (FA) and glycine betaine (GB) on fruits quality of grafted cucumber plant (GC) onto squash shintoza under salinity stress (3800 ppm) after 70 days from planting during the two seasons.  | 71 |
| 15 | Effect of sea weed extract (SWE), salicylic acid (SA), fulvic acid (FA) and glycine betaine (GB) on fruits quality of grafted cucumber plant (GC) onto squash shintoza under salinity stress (3800 ppm) after 154 days from planting during the two seasons. | 72 |